

BULLETIN

of the
**MAHONING COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

Volume LVII

Number 1

JANUARY, 1987



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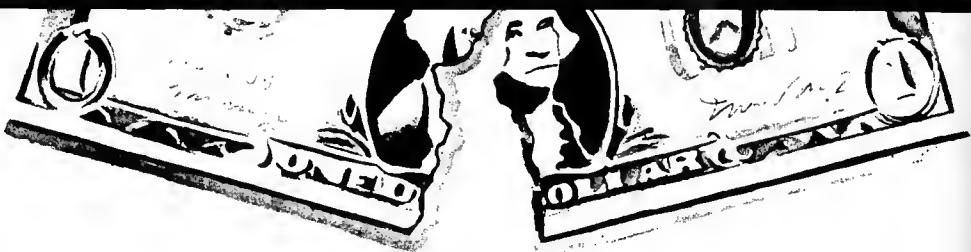
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1987 - MAHONNG COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS - 1987

Tuesday Jan. 20	Tuesday Mar. 17	Tuesday May 19	Tuesday Sept. 15	Tuesday Nov. 17	Tuesday Dec. 15
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From the Desk of the President



Eighteen years ago I attended my first Mahoning County Medical Society meeting. I never dreamed or even considered that some day I would be president of this august society. Now that the day has arrived I find that some of the glitter has vanished and that the society is not held in as high a regard by the membership as it had been in the past. Over the years, we have had problems with low attendance. Members are commenting in the halls that the society never does anything. People ask why doesn't the society do something about the poor Medicaid payments or defend our members against PRO or get our Medicare reimbursements and fee profiles raised.

First of all, the allegation that the society does nothing is incorrect. However, rather than attempt to defend the society and point out just what it has accomplished, I will take the stance that the membership is not satisfied and that there is a problem or problems. I feel that perhaps our largest problem is a lack of unity. If the council would start dealing with governmental agencies or with third party payers could we really present ourselves as the representatives of the membership? Or would we be only representing the 10-15% who attend the meetings? Would the 85-90% who do not attend comply with the results or decisions made by the minority who attend and participate? After all, membership is voluntary. Members who do not agree with the decisions made at the meetings express their dissatisfaction by threatening to quit. In a democratic society the losing side has the right to express their dissatisfaction. However, for the democracy to work, the losing side on an issue must agree to abide by the decision. If, for example, the members at a society meeting (10-15% attendance) voted to have a paper boycott of a third party payer who was being unfair to our members, could the 85% of the society who were absent be counted on to abide by the decision? At the present time I have serious doubts. Recently it was voted on and passed to increase the dues by \$50.00. This was not a surprise issue or one slipped through without telling anyone! It was well publicized. Of course, at the meeting it was to be voted on, only 15% of the membership was present. There were opposing views expressed. However, a majority of those present voted in favor of the increase. In most democratic societies it would be expected that the losing side comply with the decision. In our society, in contrast, we receive letters threatening resignation. This lack of unity is our worst enemy. "We have found the enemy and he is us."

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The opinions and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial staff nor the official views of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

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Editorial:

SWAN SONG

I have enjoyed being the Mahoning County Medical Society *Bulletin* Editor for this past year. It has made me consider more than ever the social forces that shape me and American medicine, to articulate those forces and their potential sequelae, and search for some silver linings in the coming rainclouds that will befall us.

Perhaps there will continue to be a "From The *Bulletin* — 50 Years Ago, Etc." column in the future. If so, at that future time, it might be amusing to see how closely my predictions in the remainder of this editorial will be to reality. My crystal ball is clouded with immediate concerns while there is no more bizarre soap opera than the melodrama of true life adventure that we all lead on our own daily basis.

The patients will always be there, although they will be older and suffer from more chronic debilitating illnesses, hence will be more demanding. Whatever "miracle cures" for cancer or atherosclerosis or diabetes or arthritis are inevitably found, it will not ease the burden of psychological ills that are a permanent part of the human condition, nor stem the onset of new diseases that will fit the void. With mixed feelings there will be a greater equality in decision-making in the physician-patient relationship — physicians will grow to trust their patients more, while patients will trust their physicians ever less, will be convinced that trust implies simplemindedness on their part, and paternalism on the side of their physician.

The doctors will also always be there to fulfill a basic societal need. With mixed feelings again the future physician will vary from the present one. He or she will be less intelligent as the students with the greatest promise will doubtless gravitate to business or computers or engineering technology as they witness the shearing forces applied to the medical profession. But he or she will be more generally caring and concerned and sensitive as the prime incentive for their entering medicine diverges more from the financial and more towards the rewards of beneficence. Supported rather than eroded by the destined paramadical hoards, the physician's prestige will assume alltime highs.

(Continued on Page 8)

From the Desk of the President . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

The issues that face medicine are of great magnitude and scope. Those who would control us are well organized and well funded. They want to control what we earn and how we earn it. Without unity we will be totally ineffective. How can we deal with the inequities which face us as physicians unless we can count on each other to stick together? As president of your society, I do not want to attempt to divine by some mystical power what the membership expects and would like. We are all well educated and serious thinkers. Unfortunately, we are all individuals and leaders. We do not like to give up any of our independence. Unless we each give up some of our independence and rights to each other, we will eventually be forced to give up much more to some third party or parties who will control our destinies. They will take us over one by one as individuals. But if we present ourselves as a unified group they will be helpless to control us. Your elected officers want to be able to represent all of you or at least the majority opinion of all of you. We need your input and ideas. It is not reasonable to expect council to do something unless you as members are willing to support their actions. At least let them know what actions you are or are not willing to support by coming to the meetings and expressing your ideas. Vote on the issues. And if your opinion is in the minority have the character and sense of community to support the majority. Don't take your ball and glove and go home. We can overcome the crisis. But only if we have "UNITY" and pull together.

G. Robert Barton, M.D.
President

Editorial:

(Continued from Page 7)

The government will likewise always be there, wallowing in its sty of offal. 'Til eternity it will give lip service to medical care but will eye the budget line as its priority. Mixed feelings again? Yes — there is a built-in homeostasis in politics that self-corrects actions too far off the centerline of popular feeling. There will be medical research and education of higher caliber and medical diagnostics and therapeutics of greater sophistication while simultaneously there will be a bureaucratic erosion of physician reimbursement and enforcement of dependency on legislative whims and whimsy. There is no arena into which politicians will not enter, hence a resolution of exorbitant malpractice costs will be offset by collectivist reproaches upon independent medical practices.

Last, I think that the focus of medicine will be increasingly functional, which is to say at its center will be the quality of life. What patients really want is some relief from physical or mental stresses, and the role of the doctor will be less a subjective and objective attempt at diagnosis and treatment *per se*, and more an undertaking to provide solace and comfort and reassurance, to improve functional existence.

* * * *

It would be improper for me to conclude as Editor without thanking those who have assisted me this past year, my partners Bill Loeser and Hugh Bennett, Rich Memo, Bob Blake, my wife Lark, and all those docs who have responded to editorials with comments and suggestions. Thanks to you all.

Emil Dickstein, M.D.

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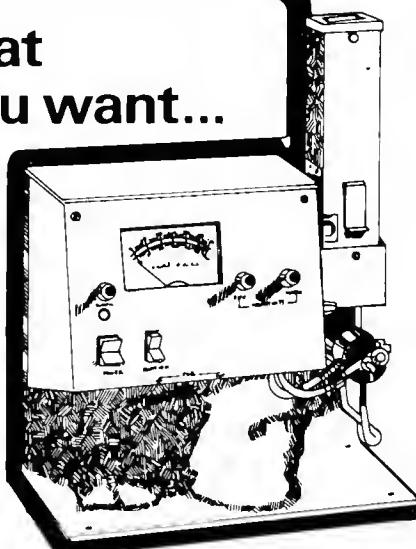
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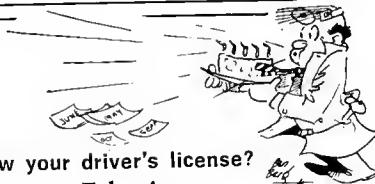
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Jan. 16	Jan. 25	Feb. 4
A. Ghani	A. W. Geordan	J. R. Hill
R. B. Blake	L. K. Reed	Feb. 5
Jan. 17	M. S. Rosenblum	L. F. Fagnano
S. W. Chiasson	Jan. 27	Feb. 6
Jan. 18	A. D. Kasamias	M. J. Lenhart
G. H. Davies	L. R. Melnick	Feb. 7
Jan. 19	Jan. 28	Y. T. Chiu
N. B. Nicoloff	A. J. Cropp	C. B. Kłodell
W. G. Reeves	Jan. 29	Feb. 8
Jan. 20	J. Politis	T. E. Campbell
F. W. Morrison	Jan. 30	F. A. Peachman
Jan. 21	A. G. Garg	Feb. 9
J. J. Buckley	Saul Tamarkin	V. G. Raghavan
A. L. Minotti	Feb. 2	F. A. Rich
Jan. 22	A. S. Weinberg	Feb. 12
R. S. Lupse	N. N. Patel	S. D. Goldberg
Jan. 23	Feb. 3	Feb. 13
K. Wegner	S. L. Davidow	J. I. Gonzalez
P. A. Wright	R. M. Kiskaddon	P. E. Ruth
Jan. 24		Feb. 14
F. M. Lamprich		L. P. Brine
G. J. Aromatorio		





Dr. William E. Sovik was delighted to receive the "Doctor of the Year" award from Dr. Richard Memo (r.), Society president, at the Dec. 16 Society meeting.

FIVE HONORED AT SOCIETY MEETING

Five members of the Mahoning Medical Society were afforded honors at the Annual Meeting of the Society which also included the election of officers for 1987 and the designation of Emeritus Status to four members.

Dr. William E. Sovik was lauded as "Doctor of the Year" for 1986 and received a special plaque from Dr. Richard Memo, Society president. Dr. Sovik and his wife made a special trip from their retirement home in Florida for the occasion.

Cited by the Ohio State Medical Association and presented with certificates and pins for 50 Years In Medicine, by Sixth District Councilor Dr. J. James Anderson, were Dr. Barclay Brandmiller, Dr. Gabriel DeCicco, Dr. Stephen Ondash and Dr. Milton Yarmy.

Voted to Emeritus status were Dr. Kenneth Camp, Dr. Raymond Luspe, Dr. Edward Shorten and Dr. Ernesto Sabado.

Officers elected in the balloting were: G. Robert Barton, president; Hai Shiu Wang, vice president; Joseph S. Gregori, treasurer; Dr. Wang, 1991 delegate; David H. Levy, Paul J. Mahar Jr., and Suman K. Mishr, alternate delegates; Chester A. Amedia, James F. Ervin, Prabhudas R. Lakhani, Glen J. Baumblatt and William G. Palmer, councilmembers-at-large; John C. Melnick and Y. T. Chiu, Foundation trustees.

Other officers are: Joseph W. Tandatnick, secretary; David E. Pichette and Juan A. Ruiz, alternate delegates; Lloyd E. Slusher, J. James Anderson, Karl F. Wienekc, C. Edward Pichette, delegates; Kimbroe J. Carter, Murali Guthikonda, Daniel W. Handel, A. D. Kasamias and Milton J. Lenhart, councilmembers-at-large.

The meeting was completed with a mini-concert by the Sweet Adelines chorus.



Physicians honored for fifty years in medicine at the Dec. 16 Society meeting and their family members were: (r. to l.) Dr. Barclay Brandmiller and his sister, Janet Mullane; Mrs. Ondash and Dr. Stephen Ondash; Dr. Gabriel DeCicco and Mrs. DeCicco; Dr. Milton Yarmy and his wife and his daughter, Janie.

USED HYPODERMIC NEEDLES — HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

The Youngstown Revised Code Section 513.10, pertaining to the disposal of used hypodermic needles has been changed to conform to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia (CDC).

This action is in response to the concerns about the transmission of communicable diseases through accidental needle sticks and puncture wounds.

The new Section 513.10 reads as follows:

(b) No manufacturer or distributor of, or dealer in, hypodermics or medication packaged in hypodermics, or their authorized agents or employees, and no owner of a pharmacy, or pharmacist, shall display any hypodermic for sale. No person authorized to possess a hypodermic pursuant to subsection (a) hereof shall negligently fail to take reasonable precautions to prevent any hypodermic in his possession from theft or acquisition by any unauthorized person, or negligently discard a hypodermic. *Used needles and cutting instruments should be discarded into a puncture-resistant container with a lid. Needles should be resheathed, purposely bent, broken, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.*

These new handling procedures should prevent many of the injuries caused by used needles, while maintaining security in disposal.

Questions concerning this new ordinance should be addressed to Robert G. Hewitt, Health Educator, Youngstown Health Department. The Phone number is 742-8784.

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R. U. KRISHNAN, M.D.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Dec. 9, 1986

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1986 at the Youngstown Club.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. Memo. The minutes of the November meeting, having been read, were approved.

The treasurer's report listed members who have not paid 1986 dues and will be dropped from the membership rolls if not paid up by Dec. 31. The report also included the 11-month total of dues collections and non-dues income. The bills list was presented and a motion was made and passed to pay each and every bill.

The following membership applications were presented:

ASSOCIATE: Richard W. Lobritz, M.D.; Mounir El Hayek, M.D.;

Leonard D. Hendricks, M.D.

The applications were approved and the applicants will become members of the Mahoning County Medical Society in the voted category 15 days after the names are printed in the minutes of the December meeting that are mailed to all members, unless an objection is received in writing by the executive director before that effective date.

COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDED:

A letter concerning adverse reactions to the drug, dapsone. Council directed that the contents of the letter be communicated to the drug company and the FDA and the sender of the letter be apprised of the action;

AMA notice of a change in the schedule of the Interim Meeting of AMA;

A communication concerning the Lordstown Tour offered by GM to the members of the Society on Dec. 4;

Notification of a new city ordinance concerning the disposal of hypodermic needles. Council direct that the ordinance be printed in the next issue of *The Bulletin*.

The nominating committee reported that only one nominee was added to the ballot from the floor at the November meeting of the Society and that was a nomination for one of the two Foundation trustee posts.

The Mini-Internship Committee reported that five interns have signed up for the program but doctor/faculty sign up is slightly behind schedule. The program is slated for January 25-27.

The Medical-Legal Committee report rated the November combined meeting a positive action and a success. Council suggested that other organizations be invited to take part in similar meetings to create a liaison with other organizations.

Sixth District Councilor Dr. Anderson reported on the legislative activity in Columbus and noted that the Medical Board bill is ready for the governor's signature. Among other things, the bill will give the board the ability to crack down where needed but will still maintain the confidentiality that the medical community has requested. He stated the H.B. 494, mandating professionals other than medical doctors be made a part of physician IPAs has been put in a study committee for six months. He reported the effort to obtain "temporarily handicapped" permits is being spearheaded by the OSMA legislative committee.

After some discussion of the paging system being used in conjunction with the Medical Dental Bureau answering service, Council directed that the president of the Bureau be invited to attend the January meeting of the Council to discuss the findings of the recent survey and others matters pertinent to the paging system.

The executive director reported that contacts are still being made in an effort to have individual member photos taken without payment of a sit-

ting fee. Council made several suggestions in an effort to solve the problem.

Dr. Memo announced that Dr. Kurt Wegner has been appointed as a Private Sector member of the Board of Directors of the Youngstown Community Action Council. The appointment was made at the request of the YACAC director.

Noting that the Mahoning County Medical Society was one of the driving forces in the formation and founding of Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in Rootstown, the Council approved the purchase of space in the 1987 NEOUCOM yearbook.

It was announced that the Annual Meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society is being held Tuesday, December 16 at 6 p.m. at the Moonraker and will include election of officers for 1987, presentation of the Doctor of the Year award, and presentation of 50-Year-In-Medicine awards, plus a mini-concert by the Sweet Adelines singers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Robert B. Blake
Executive Director

IS THIS OUR FUTURE?

Speaking at the American College of Surgeons annual clinical congress, surgeon Robert Shields, M.D. of Liverpool, England, a regional authority for that country's National Health Service, noted: "In England, we have kept the quality of our medical services high, but because of limited resources we have had to ration the access to those services. Our currency is time, and at any one time the NHS may have a list of up to 600,000 patients waiting to get into a hospital for surgery.

"We have 40,000 patients who have waited more than a year and are still waiting for orthopedic surgery; we have 10,000 who have waited more than a year and are still waiting for hip replacement surgery. We devote only 6% of our gross national product to health care, compared to 10% in America, and the difference is often felt in surgery. For example, we do only one-tenth the number of coronary-artery bypass procedures as done in America."

APPOINTED TO FULL PROFESSOR

Bruce M. Rothschild, M.D., staff member at St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center, has been appointed to a full professorship in Internal Medicine at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. The appointment was made at a board meeting of the university trustees.

SOMETHING FROM ANONYMOUS

Catch the bear before you sell his skin.
Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
Advice is least heeded when most needed.
All cats are grey in the night.
Who has lost freedom has nothing else to lose.

SO THEY SAID

A man in passion rides a wild horse. FRANKLIN
Sorrow is brief but joy is endless. SCHILLER

Never seem more learned than the people you are with.
CHESTERFIELD

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks. ST. AMBROSE
A man's true wealth is the good he does in the world. MOHAMMED

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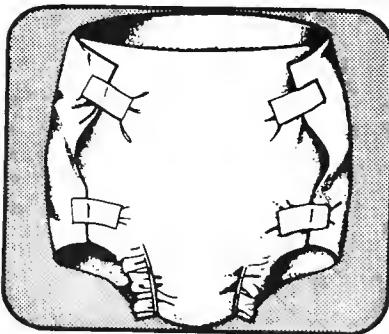
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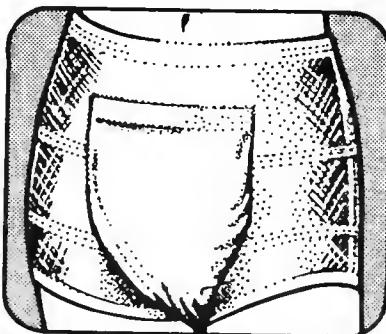
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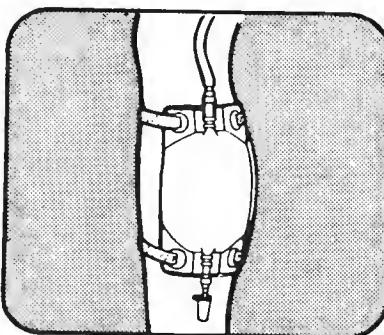
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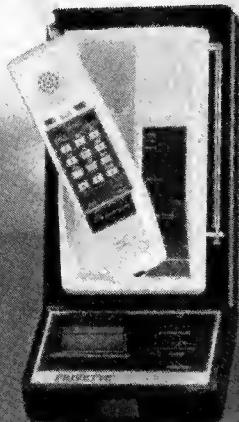
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From the Bulletin

FIFTY YEARS AGO — JANUARY 1937

Paul Fuzy was the new President and he reminded each member that he had a duty to support the Society. Claude Norris was President-Elect and Bill Skipp the Vice-President. (We had a Vice-President then, too.) Robert Poling was Secretary-Treasurer and Editors did all their own work. Harry Patrick was Editor again, his second year.

At St. Elizabeth's F. W. McNamara was Chief of Staff, Saul Tamarkin the Secretary-Treasurer. A. M. Rosenblum was Chief of Medicine and J. M. Ranz Chief of Surgery.

Stan Myers was in Boston studying Nose and Throat. Joe Keogh was there, too, studying Chest Surgery. Vern Goodwin married Ruth Huxley and they went to New York where he studied E.N.T.

New members were: Myron Steinberg, A. B. Sherk, David Levy, C. A. Gustafson and Martin Conti.

Kolmer's work on polio immunization with a ricineolated virus had been discredited. It was recommended that during the polio season children's noses should receive daily installations of a mixture of alum and tannic acid.

FORTY YEARS AGO — JANUARY 1947

President George McKelvey urged members to see that all night calls were covered adequately. John Noll was President-Elect. Vernon Goodwin, Secretary and P. J. McOwen the Treasurer. The Vice-Presidential office had been discontinued. Mary Herald was the new Executive Secretary.

Sixteen doctors whose offices had been held for them rent-free in the Home Savings and Loan Building during their years of war service presented a bronze plaque to the Directors of the Company in appreciation of the patriotic act.

THIRTY YEARS AGO — JANUARY 1957

President Ondash reminded the members that it was the eighth-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Medical Society. Editor Pichette printed the Hippocratic Oath and called it a doctor's most important New Year's resolution.

Medical Economics reported that most doctors worked 60 hours a week and made less than a bricklayer if he put in the same number of hours.

W. H. "Bill" Bunn, Sr. received the highest Award of Merit for his outstanding work with the American Heart Association.

Fred Resch was elected President of the Academy of General Practice.

There were 209 active members, 30 junior active, 2 associated, 3 non-resident, 10 interne and 12 honorary.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — JANUARY 1967

Harold Reese was President. Robert Fisher was President-Elect, M. C. Raupple was Treasurer and Clyde Walter Secretary. E. T. Saadi was the new Editor.

There were 308 active members, 15 associate, 3 military, 13 non-resident and 18 honorary, 336 in all. Average attendance at the meetings in 1966 was 87. B. J. Dreiling and F. W. McNamara were new Honorary members.

E. Henry Jones died at the age of 82. He was coroner for six years before he specialized in Dermatology.

New members that month were Patrick Brucoli and John Bleacher.

In Council a resolution submitted by J. L. Fisher requiring mandatory attendance at Medical Society Meetings was unanimously defeated.

TEN YEARS AGO—JANUARY 1977

Jim Anderson was the new President. Karl Wieneke was the Vice-President (the office of "President-Elect" had been eliminated). Tony DeRamo was Secretary and Jim Lambert was Treasurer. Editor Reed Hoffmaster wrote, "I am of the firm belief that the average practicing physician in our nation is confused as to the developments in the Health Care Industry". And they still are!

Robert R. Fisher, M.D.



ITEMS

From the Exec's Desk

ROBERT B. BLAKE, Executive Director

If you never put yourself on the line, you won't make waves, and if you don't make waves you won't rock the boat. But you'll still risk drowning . . . in a sea of mediocrity.

* * * * *

It is interesting to note that to be absolutely certain about something, one must know everything about it or know nothing about it.

* * * * *

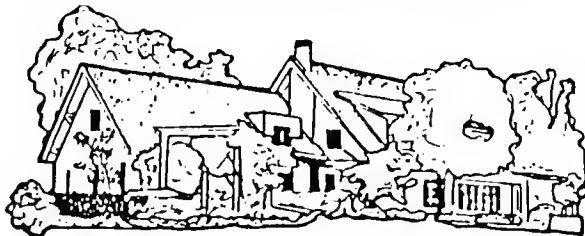
After trying to decipher the new forms for determining 1987 charges allowed for Medicare medical service, I have decided that federal government and the impractical theorists who administer the Medicare program are trying to exasperate the physicians into becoming "participating" in the program. The deviousness of the formulas for computing fees is a subliminal way of coercion, in my opinion.

* * * * *

One social scientist says that in 30 days you can change your world and your environment by performing a simple exercise. For the next 30 days treat every person you meet . . . no exceptions . . . as the most important person in the world. You will find that others will begin treating you in the same way.

* * * * *

Health care lawyers told a recent meeting of the American Bar Association that the heyday of HMOs, IPAs and PPOs may be over. The so-called "alternative delivery systems" are now beginning to worry about stiff competition, liability problems and financial concerns. Stephen Schuster, a Reston, Virginia attorney, told his colleagues that the HMO-type plans have accomplished their purpose of cutting the "fat" out of the health care system and reducing hospital utilization. He predicted, however, that patients may soon rebel against capitated plans because they fail to provide desired services and fail to build personal doctor-patient relationships.



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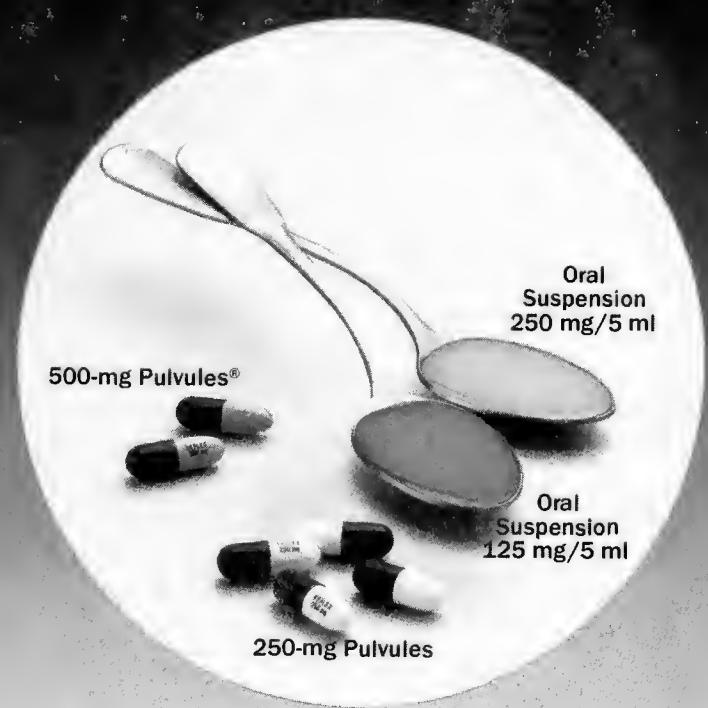
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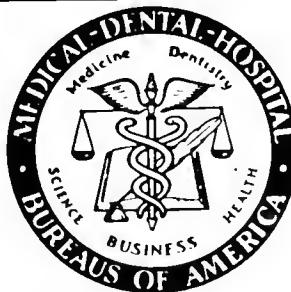
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